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First Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project

Teleconference, 20 September 2021

Agenda Item 3: Progress on Marine Litter MED II Project Implementation:

Progress Report Submitted for the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project (Annual Progress Report 2020)

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Marine Litter MED II Project

Annual Project Progress Report
Reporting period: 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

Prepared by
<Indicate UN Environment Division / MEA Secretariat>

SIGNATURES[1]	
Name of Project Manager: Mohamad Kayyal	Signature Date:_12/02/2021
Name of Supervisor: Tatjana Hema	**Clearance** Signature Date: 12/02/2021
Name of Head of Branch / Unit Managing Project: Gaetano Leone	**Sign Off** Signature Date:_12/02/2021

[1] The signatures of the annual project progress reports confirm that quality control was done in the concerned Division and MEA Secretariat.

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS / GPGC PROGRAMME COOPERATION AGREEMENT

ANNEX 4 – ANNUAL PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	**01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020**

DESCRIPTION

ENRTP/GPGC Strategic Priority[2]	GPGC Priority Area 1 – Component 4: International environment and Climate governance	EC Directorate General	DG ENV
Project Title	Marine Litter MED II		
UN Environment Division Director/MEA Executive Head managing project	UN Environment Programme /Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Barcelona Convention Secretariat		
UN Environment /MEA Project Manager	Project Manager is Under Recruitment (Interim Contact: UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme Management Officer – Mr. Mohamad Kayyal: mohamad.kayyal@un.org)		
UN Environment /MEA Fund Management Officer	Kumiko Yatagai, Fund Management Officer kumiko.yatagai@un.org		
EC Task Manager	Michail Papadoyannakis, Policy Officer michail.papadoyannakis@ec.europa.eu		
UN Environment /MEA PoW	UNEP/MAP 2020-2021 Programme of Work (PoW)		
UN Environment /MEA Sub-programme	Ecosystem Management		
UN Environment /MEA PoW Expected Accomplishment(s)/Indicator(s)	The project will strengthen and support the Contracting Parties to The Barcelona Convention to prevent and effectively manage marine litter through the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. Theme 1 – Governance: Indicator 3: Share of external financial resources mobilized by the entire MAP system to co-finance MTF for the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy. Indicator 7. Number of MoUs/MoCs concluded or updated;8. Number of joint activities with partners. Indicator 9 (a): Number of countries updating and implementing national IMAP-compatible monitoring and assessment programmes. Theme 2 – Land and Sea Based Pollution: Indicator 1: Number of marine pollution prevention and control regulatory instruments and policies updated or developed. Indicator Indicator 3: Number of countries submitting reports on annual pollution loads and pollution monitoring data for agreed pollutants. Indicator 4(a): Number of projects identified and or prepared to eliminate pollution hot spots and respond to marine pollution. Indicator 4(b): Quantities of obsolete chemicals and marine litter disposed in environmentally sound manner/reduced in selected areas		

[2] The ENRTP and GPGC priorities are indicated in the EC-approved project full-fledged documents.

	Indicator 5: Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organizations capacitated to promote SCP solutions alternative to POPs and toxic chemicals, and marine litter reduction.		
UN Environment /MEA PoW Output(s)	UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2020-2021 Outputs: 1.1.2, 1.3.1, 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 1.5.1, 1.6.1, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.5.2, 2.6.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 3.5.1		
Link to relevant SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s)	**12.4**: "By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment"; **12.5**: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. **14.1**: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. **14.2**: by 2020, sustainably manage, and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans		
Name of Implementing Partners	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC) Mediterranean Countries Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention		
Type/Location	Regional: Mediterranean (focus on South-East Mediterranean) & Black Sea Regions		
Region (delete as appropriate)	Africa, West Asia		
Names of Countries	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia		
Project Start Date[3]	01/09/2020	Project End Date[4]	31/08/2023
Date of EC Task Manager approval of project	20 August 2020		
Overall project duration	36 months		
Total EC Allocation incl. programme support costs (USD)	USD 1,140,000 (incl. 7% programme support costs)		

[3] Start date should be the start date reflected in the EC-approved full-fledged proposal. If the EC approval came posterior to this date - the date of the email marking EC approval or the date indicated as the start date in the EC's email.
[4] End date should be the end date reflected in the EC-approved full-fledged project document. The initial end date can be exceptionally modified upon written EC approval based on a request for no-cost extension of the project implementation period.

I SUMMARY OF OVERALL PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Summarize: i) the project implementation status at the time of reporting (global overview on the project implementation since its start); ii) progress towards achieving the project's objectives as well as contribution to higher level results (expected accomplishment(s) in UN Environment /MEA PoW); iii) performance remarks and highlights; what the project has done to advance or consider gender. If relevant for your reporting, you may use also Table 1 below to succinctly provide results per outcome and component over the reporting period.

Table 1: Achievement of results

Outcome 1	**Indicator(s)**	**Target vs. Actual result**	**Description of the results achieved**
Enhance national capacities on monitoring and assessing marine litter addressing pressures/sources and impacts to contribute to 2023 MED QSR with quality assured data addressing pressures and effectiveness of measures in line with COP 20 Decision on 2017 MED QSR:	National Monitoring Programmes and Strategies Prepared for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	A draft Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) and budget with SPA/RAC has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is shared with IP for comments before it is finalized and signed (exp. Jan-Feb. 2021). In depth-discussions have been carried out with the Implementing Partner and with the countries as detailed under Output 1-A, 1-B, 1-C.
	Level of collection of monitoring data for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24		
	Level of agreement on updated baselines values, threshold values for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24		
	Number of Monitoring Protocols and methodologies prepared and implemented for riverine marine litter and microplastics coming from WWTP		*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Level of achievement of the approved marine litter environmental targets		
	Number of assessment reports delivered including measures identification		
Output 1-A	Level of preparation of national Monitoring programmes and strategies for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24		*A draft SSFA and budget with SPA/RAC has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is shared with IP for comments before it is finalized and signed (exp. Jan-Feb. 2021). In-depth discussions have been carried out bilaterally (i.e. between UNEP/MAP MED POL and SPA/RAC) and at regional level (i.e. during the Integrated CorMon Meeting (Dec. 2020)) regarding the execution of this set of activities. Moreover, the Regional Operational Strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 will be reviewed and validated by the Contracting Parties during the CorMon Marine Litter Meeting (March. 2021) based on which the national monitoring programmes and strategies will be based.*
	Number of national teams and Institutions involved in the process		
	Number of national experts trained		

Output 1-B	Level of preparation of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries.		A draft SSFA and budget with SPA/RAC has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is shared with IP for comments before it is finalized and signed (exp. Jan-Feb. 2021). The "*Protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entangling) with a view to harmonizing methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment*" developed and agreed at regional level will serve as the basis for the development of the relevant DS-DD.
	Level of preparation of quality assured reporting procedure of monitoring data sets		
	Level of inclusion of DS and DD in the IMAP Infosystem and operationality		
Output 1-C	Level of further development and update of baseline values and environmental targets		*A draft SSFA and budget with SPA/RAC has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is shared with IP for comments before it is finalized and signed (exp. Jan-Feb. 2021). In-depth discussions have been carried out at regional level (i.e. during the Integrated CorMon Meeting (Dec. 2020)) regarding the update of the Baseline Values and the proposal of Threshold Values for IMAP EO10 including for Candidate Indicator 24.*
	Level of preparation of assessment threshold values		
Output 1-D	Level of progress achieved in reaching the environmental targets approved by COP 19 in 2016.	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Proposal on environmental targets or their update for IMAP Common and Candidate Indicators for Marine Litter		
	Number of indicators proposed to assess the reduction of plastic leakage in the Mediterranean towards the commitments in the Naples Ministerial Declaration of COP 21 with a particular on the result of the pilot projects under outcome 2 of this project		
Output 1-E	Level of preparation of Methodologies developed for monitoring and assessing riverine inputs.		
	Level of Data collected to feed 2023 MED QSR preparations with regards to marine litter riverine inputs		
	Number of national experts trained		

Output 1-F	Number of Regional/sub-regional reports on the sources, uses and leakages of microplastics in the Mediterranean	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Number of key management and prevention measures proposed		
	Number of Protocols developed to monitor microplastics		
Output 1-G	Number of national experts trained		
	Number of teams involved in the pilot projects at country level		

Outcome 2	Indicator(s)	Target vs. Actual result	Description of the results achieved
Scale up and expand the implementation of pilot implementation of selected marine litter reduction and prevention measures at national and local level:	Number of national reports submitted showcasing and presenting results from the implementation of Adopt-a-beach pilots	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	*In-depth discussions have been carried out at regional level during the presentation of the project at the Integrated CorMon Meeting (Dec. 2020)). Moreover, a letter from UNEP/MAP Coordinator is under preparation. Bilateral meetings with the beneficiary countries are planned in Q1 of 2021. However, the reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Number of national reports submitted showcasing and presenting results from the implementation of Fishing-for-Litter pilots		
	Number of national reports submitted showcasing and presenting results from the implementation of measures related to the reduction of single-use plastic bags, and promote alternatives to SUPB, including preparation of adaptation programmes for concerned national industry		
	Number of EPR schemes prepared and developed with a particular focus on plastic packaging and beverage containers		
	Number of pilots related to the enhanced management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas		
Output 2-A	Number of countries implementing Adopt-a-beach pilots		*In-depth discussions have been carried out at regional level during the presentation of the project at the Integrated CorMon Meeting (Dec. 2020)). Moreover, a letter from UNEP/MAP Coordinator is under preparation. Bilateral meetings with the beneficiary countries are planned in Q1 of 2021. However, the reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the*
	Number of sites selected per country to implement adopt of beach measures.		
	Number of data collected in line with IMAP guidance factsheets and Adopt a Beach Guidelines		
	Number of local actors involved in the process		
	Level of marine litter reduction in pilot areas		
Output 2-B	Number of countries implementing FfL pilots		

	Number of sites selected per country to implement FfL measures		*implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Number of data collected in line with IMAP guidance factsheets and FfL Guidelines.	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Number of local actors involved in the process.		
	Level of marine litter item reduction in pilot areas.		
Output 2-C	Number of fishermen engaged in the implementation of the pilots.		
	Number of national workshops.		*Preliminary discussions have been carried out with a new EU-funded project (LIFEDREAM) for the organization of a tangible synergy pertinent to the demonstration/piloting of a pyrolytic device in the selected ports of the ML MED II project (i.e. production of energy from the collected marine litter, low carbon emission footprint; portable device).*
Output 2-D	Number of countries to review and draft up to date regulations and law on reduction of single use plastics		*A draft SSFA and budget with SCP/RAC has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is shared with IP for comments before it is finalized and signed (exp. Jan-Feb. 2021). The SSFA includes all the package of activities under Output 2-D i.e. focusing on the reduction of single-use plastics and the implementation of national EPR schemes. Minor adjustments may be considered with the scope to tailor the provided financial support per country.*
	Number of laws/regulations developed on reduction of single use plastics.		
	Number of counties and sectors implementing EPR schemes for plastic packaging and beverage containers		
Output 2-E	Number of pilots related to the enhanced management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas implemented		*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Number of targeted diagnosis prepared for the selected ports and marinas		
	Number of Waste Reception and Handling Plans (WRHP) prepared or revised		

Outcome 3	Indicator(s)	Target vs. Actual result	Description of the results achieved
Maximize synergies on marine litter actions in the Region with a focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission and GFCM, and other regional partners:	Level of marine litter reduction observed in pilot areas in two eligible BS countries addressing beach marine litter (Adopt-a-beach) and prevention measures (phasing out single-use plastic bags)	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	*A draft SSFA and budget with BSC has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is shared for comments before it is finalized and signed (exp. Jan-Feb. 2021). Preliminary discussions have been carried out regarding the specification of the support that will be provided to the BS countries and under which conditions. An official letter from UNEP/MAP Coordinator is under preparation informing the BSC for the commencement of the project, detailing the project activities and support, and reminding the need for BSC to organize a Regional Seas Coordination Meeting during the first half of 2021.*
	Number of national marine litter monitoring programmes prepared		
	Number of marine litter assessment reports for the Black Sea region updated/prepared		
	Number of joint workplans prepared and established with GFCM and BSC on marine litter issues and cooperation with regional partners enhanced, including with G7 and G20 as appropriate		*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period.*
	Number of additional memberships from organizations/institutions from the project eligible countries join the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine litter in the Mediterranean.		
	Number of project reports prepared and submitted, and steering committee meetings successfully organized.		
Output 3-A	Number of national monitoring programmes		
	Number of regional assessment reports		
	Number of baseline values formulated		
Output 3-B	Adopt-a-beach pilots are implemented in at least, two Black Sea countries		
	National regulatory framework for phasing out single-use plastic bags is reviewed, and technical assistance is provided in two countries		

Output 3-C	Joint workplan between UNEP/MAP and GFCM is prepared and agreed.		*The reporting period (i.e.01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure (financial and administrative) and undertaking necessary preparatory actions for the preparation of the legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities, and thus tangible results cannot be reported for this reporting period* .*
Output 3-D	Participation and membership of key Mediterranean actors and stakeholders into the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean expanded; synergies maximized	As planned and in line with the Project's Workplan (Preparatory Phase)	
	Additional memberships from organizations/institutions from the project eligible countries join the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine litter in the Mediterranean		

The Marine Litter MED II project implementation and the charge of agreed expenditure is valid as of September 2020, and the project was officially launched in December 2020 during the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs - Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020). During the period September to November 2020 the project was made operational through the development of the project budget builder and M-Grant approval in UMOJA. The project will be co-executed with UNEP/MAP Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL); MAP Regional Activity Centres; and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC). Several southern Mediterranean countries will also benefit financial and technical support. To this aim the preparation of legal instruments for the activities to be executed by the project partners started and is in the stage of consultation and preparation. They are expected to be finalized end of January 2021 and signed from both sides in early spring 2021. Preparatory work has been already undertaken for engaging a full-time project manager, including INSPIRA-related preparations and approvals from UNEP Headquarters. The advertisement of the Job Opening is expected in early 2021.

II OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Provide for each output listed in the project document the description, indicators and progress made/any result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only)

Provide information on main activities undertaken, including activities on gender; reason for modifications of planned activities (if applicable) and list of activities, which were planned but not implemented, explaining the reasons.

Provide supporting documents to the donor as means of verification for each of the outputs achieved as well as for results achieved for each outcome (if files can be downloaded, please provide accessible and working links below).

The reporting period (01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure and undertaking necessary legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities. However, progress can be reported regarding the preparatory negotiations for the preparations of the SSFAs with SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC and the BSC.

In-depth discussions have been carried out bilaterally (i.e. between UNEP/MAP MED POL and SPA/RAC) and at regional level (i.e. during the Integrated CorMon Meeting (Dec. 2020)) regarding the execution of this set of activities, including for updating the Baseline Values and proposing Threshold Values for IMAP EO10 Marine Litter. Moreover, the Regional Operational Strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 will be reviewed and validated by the Contracting Parties during the CorMon Marine Litter Meeting (March. 2021) based on which the national monitoring programmes and strategies will be based. These are very important elements for setting the scene, creating a solid basis and enhancing a common/regional understanding on the work required for transforming IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, hopefully into a Common Indicator.

Regarding the execution of pilots, in-depth discussions have been carried out at regional level during the presentation of the project at the Integrated CorMon Meeting (Dec. 2020)). Moreover, a letter from UNEP/MAP Coordinator is under preparation informing the countries about the project support. Bilateral meetings with the beneficiary countries are planned in Q1 of 2021 during which the specific details for the country support will be discussed. Moreover, the SSFA with SCP/RAC covering the full package of activities under Output 2-D (i.e. focusing on the reduction of single-use plastics and the implementation of national EPR schemes) has been discussed at preliminary level.

Outputs 3-A and 3-B envisage a generous package of support to the BSC to support targeted actions for the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea Region. In this regard, a draft SSFA and budget have been prepared by UNEP/MAP and are shared for comments before they are finalized and signed (expected Jan-Feb. 2021). Preliminary discussions have been carried out regarding the specification of the support that will be provided to the BS countries and under which conditions. An official letter from UNEP/MAP Coordinator is under preparation informing the BSC for the commencement of the project, detailing the project activities and support, and reminding the need for BSC to organize a Regional Seas Coordination Meeting during the first half of 2021.

III CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN

Summarize main implementing challenges, including challenges and approaches taken in incorporating gender and socioeconomic dimensions of the project implementation if any, corrective/management measures which have been adopted to address them. List potential risks (internal and external) that have arisen or changed from those in the approved full-fledged project document and which may jeopardize the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of outputs and outcomes; explain which actions have been planned to mitigate the identified risks.

Because of the very early stage of the project, no specific challenges can be reported for the moment and thus no management actions or a risk mitigation plan have been considered or prepared. UNEP/MAP-MED POL have undertaken all the necessary actions to make the project budget builder operational in UMOJA and the respective project funds available for use in like with the project scope and activities. The COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the fact that no physical meeting can take place probably also during the first half of 2021, as well as that all national administrations of the ML MED II beneficiary countries are mostly under full/ partial telecommuting arrangements; have and entailed to delays in response of the initial phase of negotiations (i.e. establishing the enabling conditions for signing the legal agreements), as well on the

execution of the project's activities. PMU is closely monitoring all the above and will report timely to the project Steering Committee and to the EC Task Manager if needed.

IV Outcome Performance

With focus on the current reporting period, provide for each outcome listed in the project document the description, the indicator, progress made towards achieving each indicator and overall narrative statement on results achieved for each outcome. When applicable, explain briefly how your gender-sensitive activities impact the outcomes performance.

Current reporting period (i.e. 1/9/2020 to 31/12/2021) is too short for such a summary description. Please see the Summary of overall Project performance (Section I) and Output Performance (Section II) for more information.

V Inter-linkages and Synergies with other Projects from same UN Environment Sub-programme/MEA Secretariat funded under DG ENV and DG DEVCO ENRTP SCAs/DG ENV GPGC PCA

Highlight, as applicable, main inter-linkages/interplay/synergies between the projects from a same UN Environment sub-programme/MEA Secretariat that are funded under DG ENV and DG DEVCO ENRTP SCAs/DG ENV GPGC PCA.

The project ensures complementarities with UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategies (MTS) 2016-2021 and 2022-2027, the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 Programme of Work (PoW). The project will also make sure that synergy and coherence are enhanced as much as possible with other relevant projects and initiatives, and in particular with other EU- and GEF-funded projects: i.e. GEF Adriatic; GEF Med Programme Child 1.1; EcAp MED III; Cooperation Agreement with IMELS; ENI SEIS-MED II; IMAP-MPA; MED PlasticBusters MPAs; Water and Environment Support (WES); MED REGION; GloLitter; etc. The reporting period (01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation which is too short to report tangible synergies with the said projects. More concrete input and feedback will be provided during the next reporting cycles. The Marine Litter MED II Project Steering Committee will be encouraged to review the list of relevant projects during each of its meeting.

Regarding the Fishing-for-Litter pilots, preliminary discussions have been carried out with a new EU-funded project (LIFEDREAM) for the organization of a tangible synergy pertinent to the demonstration/piloting of a pyrolytic device in the selected ports of the ML MED II project (i.e. production of energy from the collected marine litter, low carbon emission footprint; portable device).

VI Resources and Budget[5]

Provide: i) narrative description of financial implementation and any remark on the overall project budget, including the development of the co-financing as initially foreseen[6]; ii) indications of whether there is a delay in spending the funds and its clarifications; iii) information on resources yet to be mobilized, if any; iv) additional resources leveraged by UN Environment and/or partners as a result of the project

Marine Litter MED II Project budget builder and M-Grant have been created and approved in UMOJA. Subsequently project budget was released in accordance with the yearly allocations as contained in the officially/approved project budget. No difficulties/ risks on budget delivery are encountered or foreseen for the moment and the execution of the project in terms of budget is organized as planned and indicated in the Project Document and Budget.

VII Visibility[7]

In line with your initially approved Communication and Visibility Plan, provide: i) description of communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level within the reporting period; ii) documentation showing outreach (focusing on foreseen policy impact i.e. both generated and feeding into policy processes,

[5] This section will provide a narrative description of the project financial implementation only, but should be developed in close liaison with the Fund Management Officer. Financial reporting will provide detailed figures.
[6] The co-financing information is to be aligned with the project budget in the full-fledged proposal approved by your EC task manager. Please ensure close liaison with your project Fund Management Officer, as information reported here should be consistent with the financial report. The co-financing can take the form of cash and/or staff time. In kind co-financing is not accepted by the EC. The project team must keep evidences of the reported co-financing in the project archives.
[7] With communication activities, increasingly important for the EU, please raise where and how EU support has been mentioned and acknowledged in your communication activities.

impact on the ground and specific targeted audience; and iii) related evidence of developed communication and visibility materials (e.g. video; picture; interview; newsletter; accessible web links; etc.).

A dedicated ML MED II project section has been developed in the updated UNEP/MAP website: https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects

A detailed presentation of the project's scope, objectives and activities was delivered during the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs - Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020).

VIII WAY FORWARD[8]

Provide your work plan (including for communication activities) for the next annual reporting period. Summarize: i) activities scheduled – including any major activity to highlight, key milestones and possible changes from the approved full-fledged project document and lead responsibilities; ii) main outputs to be achieved in the upcoming reporting period including new or changes from the original plan and iii) indication of possible challenges that are already foreseeable; iv) forecast of expected expenditures.

The next steps will mainly focus on the preparation, negotiation, signature and operationalization of the legal agreements with the MAP Components (e.g. SPA/RAC, SCP/RAC), the BSC, and the respective beneficiary countries. The engagement of a full-time project manager is another important milestone which is expected to take place during the first half of 2021. The Job Profile has been prepared by UNEP/MAP and is currently under consideration in Headquarters for approval and advertisement in INSPIRA. As soon as this process is completed, a consultant may be recruited to support project execution until the Project Manager is onboard. Terms of References (ToRs) for specific/thematic experts/ consultants will follow in 2021 after the recruitment of the Project Manager.

The key activities planned in 2021 are:

- Project Manager is on board;
- SSFAs with SPA/RAC and SCP/RAC and BSC are signed, fully operational and the regional activities start;
- SSFA with BSC is signed, fully operational and the regional activities start;
- SSFAs with the beneficiary Countries are signed, fully operational, and the national activities start;
- Organization of the 1st Steering Committee of the Project; and
- Collaboration with GFCM is operational.

IX FINAL REMARKS ON REPORTING PERIOD 2020

With a focus on reporting period 2020, describe: i) lessons learned during project design and implementation; ii) stakeholder participation and level of engagement/satisfaction; iii) where applicable, outline any links and synergies developed with other projects; iv) main issues and recommendations for the attention of the donor; v) overall observations on project performance and whether the project had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

The reporting period (01/09/2020-31/12/2020) covers the first four months of project implementation, which mainly focused on establishing the project structure and undertaking necessary legal and financial arrangements in order to initiate the implementation of specific output activities. The operationalization of the project budget in UMOJA is an important milestone to enable and to secure the operationalization of the project in a timely manner. The preparation of the legal agreements and the engagement of a full-time project manager were initiated timely in 2020 and are expected to be finalized in 2021.

X ANNEXES

Please list annexes to the annual project progress report, including for section 'VII Visibility'.

[No annexes available for the first reporting period]

[8] A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather it represents the achievement of a feasible project management stage and be strictly answerable as yes or no answer.